WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A   system   for   providing   access   to   a   network
comprising:

5   a management interface system receiving management data
from one or more management systems that provide the management
data for the network; and

a portal system coupled to the management interface
system, the portal system receiving the management data from
10   the   one   or   more   management   systems   and   presenting   the
management data in a predetermined format.

2.   The system of claim 1 further comprising a workflow
system coupled to the portal system, the workflow system
15   receiving the management data from the one or more management
systems and providing one or more workflows in response to the
management data.

3.   The system of claim 1 further comprising a client
20   view system coupled to the portal · system, the client view
system receiving format data and management data and generating
client view data.

4.   The system of claim 1 further comprising a channel
25   format system coupled to the portal system, the channel format
system receiving channel format data and using the channel
format data to interface with one of the management systems.

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5. The system of claim 1 further comprising a user login system coupled to the portal system, the user login system receiving user identification input data and generating management system login data.

6. The system of claim 1 further comprising a workflow edit system coupled to the portal system, the workflow edit system receiving workflow process data from an operator that defines a workflow.

7. The system of claim 1 further comprising a workflow execution system coupled to the portal system, the workflow execution system executing predefined workflow process data to perform a workflow.

8. The system of claim 1 further comprising a client view system coupled to the portal system, the client view system receiving format data and management data and generating client view data.

9. The system of claim 1 further comprising an element information system coupled to the portal system, the element information system receiving network element data from one or more network elements and providing the network element data to the portal system.

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10. A system for providing external access to a network through a firewall comprising:

one or more network management service systems;

a portal system coupled to the network and the one or more network management service systems, the portal system receiving network data and network management service system data and compiling the network data and network management service system data into view data; and

a client view system coupled to the portal system, the client view system receiving the view data and generating a graphic user interface to display the view data to a user.

11. The system of claim 10 further comprising a channel format system receiving channel format data and using the channel format data to interface with the one or more network management service systems.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein the portal system further comprises a web server layer that generates *.HTML data for a component and performs translation of data for the component.

13. The system of claim 10 wherein the client view system further comprises a client layer that provides visual representation data for a component.

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14. A method for providing access to a network
comprising:

  receiving network data from one or more sources;

  assembling the network data into one or more channels; and

5   presenting the channels to a user.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein receiving network data
from one or more sources comprises receiving network data from
one or more network management systems.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein assembling the network
data into one or more channels comprises preventing the
operation of one or more of the group including a TOP call
command, a hard-coded URL, a hard-coded frame reference, or
rule-based text manipulation of proxied data sources.

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17.   A method for generating a workflow comprising:

selecting one or more workflow application data fields for a first workflow application;

creating a workflow process map;

5   assembling the workflow data fields and the workflow process map into a workflow process; and

storing the workflow process.

18.   The method of claim 17 further comprising:

10   selecting one or more workflow application data fields for a second workflow application;

modifying the workflow process map to include the second workflow application data fields;

assembling the first workflow application data fields, the 15 second workflow application data fields, and the workflow process map into the workflow process; and

storing the workflow process.

19.   The method of claim 17 wherein storing the workflow 20 process further comprises:

performing a workflow process test to determine whether the workflow generates acceptable results; and

storing the workflow process if the workflow generates acceptable results.

20. The method of claim 17 further comprising:

associating one or more flags with the workflow process; and

presenting a user with a user-selectable control to allow
5 the user to execute the workflow when the one or more flags are
activated.